Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 14213 070923Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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P 070914Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0183
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
USLO PEKING PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14213

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH, JA
SUBJECT: PFT

1. IMPENDING DEPARTURE OF FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA TO PEKING FOR PURPOSE OF WINDING UP PFT TALKS HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF INTENSE COMMENTARY AND SPECULATION AMONG POLITICIANS AND PRESS. FOLLOWING RETURN OF ASIAN AFFAIRS DIRGEN NAKAE AUGUST 5, AND IMMEDIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH SONODA THAT AFTERNOON, SONODA JOURNEYED TO HAKONE FOR AUGUST 6 DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER. PRESS WAS OF COURSE FULLY BRIEFED AT EVERY STAGE, AND HENCE PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION TO SEND SONODA TO PEKING TO "BREAK DEADLOCK" WAS WIDELY ANTICIPATED.

2. FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT SUNDAY NIGHT THAT SONODA WOULD DEPART AUGUST 8, HE AND PRIME MINISTER SWUNG INTO ACTIVE
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 14213 070923Z

ROUND OF INTRA AND INTER-PARTY CONSULTATIONS, IN EFFORT TO ASSURE DEGREE OF LDP CONSENSUS IN SUPPORT OF SONODA'S MISSION, AND THEN, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, TO GENERATE FAVOR-ABLE STATEMENTS FROM OPPOSITION PARTIES AS WELL. LDP SECRETARY GENERAL OHIRA WAS QUICK TO GIVE HIS BLESSING, AND LDP ELDERS ASSOCIATED WITH PRO-TAIWAN FACTION OF PARTY (E.G., NADAO,

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

FUNADA) HAVE AT LEAST REFRAINED FROM
CRITICISM. AMONG OPPOSITION, SYMPATHETIC STATEMENTS
HAVE BEEN ELICITED BY PRESS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL
PARTIES EXCEPT JCP, ALTHOUGH DEGREE OF SUPPORT VOICED
VARIES CONSIDERABLY. THUS, SONODA WILL TRAVEL TO PEKING,
IF NOT ON WAVE OF PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM, AT LEAST WITH
LOW-KEY APPROBATION OF MAJOR ELEMENTS OF JAPANESE BODY
POLITIC.

3. WHAT HE FINDS WHEN HE ARRIVES, ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY
MINISTER TAKASHIMA, NAKAE, AND TREATIES BUREAU DIRGEN
OMORI, IS STILL UNCLEAR. WE GATHER TREATMENT OF SO-CALLED
THIRD-COUNTRY CLAUSE IS STILL UNSETTLED, AND ITS
RESOLUTION MAY BE AS DIFFICULT A PROPOSITION AS FOREIGN
MINISTER HAS IMPLIED. ON OTHER HAND, WE SUSPECT FUKUDA
AND SONODA HAVE CALCULATED CHANCES FOR SUCCESS AS REASON-
ABLY HIGH, OR WOULD NOT HAVE DECIDED TO GO AHEAD.

4. INTERESTING TWIST TO SITUATION CAME IN INTERVIEW
GRANTED KYODO EDITOR AUGUST 5 BY CHANG HSIANG-SHAN, VICE
CHAIRMAN OF CHINA-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION, IN WHICH
CHANG PRESENTED CHINESE VIEW OF STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS
AND NATURE OF REMAINING DISAGREEMENT, AND OUTLINED PRC
PROPOSAL TO RESOLVE IT. IN DOING SO, HE NOTED THAT
PROPOSED SOLUTION "INCORPORATES THE VIEWS OF OLD FRIENDS",
TAKEN HERE AS A CLEAR REFERENCE TO TANAKA LIEUTENANT
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PAGE 03 TOKYO 14213 070923Z

SUSUMU NIKAIDO, WHO HAD VISITED PEKING LAST OCTOBER.
RESPONDING TO PRESS QUERIES, GOJ SPOKESMEN HAVE NOTED THAT
CHANG WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL NEGOTIATOR AND HENCE HIS PUBLIC
REVELATION OF NEGOTIATING DETAILS, SOME OF WHICH WERE SAID
TO BE OUT OF DATE, WAS NOT TO BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY. ON
OTHER HAND, CHANG REMARKS HAVE BEEN POINTED TO AS EVIDENCE
OF PRC READINESS TO COMPROMISE, WHATEVER CONTENTS OF
COMPROMISE MAY BE, AND AS SIGN OF PRC EAGERNESS TO
CONCLUDE TREATY. GOJ SPOKESMEN HAVE NOT, HOWEVER,
COMMENTED ON CHANG'S REFERENCE TO "OLD FRIENDS."
MANSFIELD

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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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